

Message Text

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46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 SIL-01 OMB-01 IO-11 DODE-00 PA-02 USIA-15

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R 271635Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL BELFAST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1175

INFO AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USNAVCOMMSTA LONDONDERRY

UNCLAS BELFAST 044

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, ELAB, U.K. (N.I.)

SUBJECT: SPOTTY OBSERVANCE TWO MINUTE TRADE UNION SILENCE

REF: BELFAST 40, 33

1. EARLY REPORTS OF OBSERVANCE TWO MINUTE SILENCE AT 1100 LOCAL TODAY CALLED FOR BY SOME TRADE UNION LEADERS TO DEMONSTRATE MASS SUPPORT FOR PEACE AND PROGRESS INDICATE MIXED RESPONSE. AT CITY HALL BELFAST SEVERAL HUNDRED PEOPLE GATHERED AND STOOD SILENTLY AS DID PASSERSBY. MANY SIGNED PEACE PETITION AFTERWARDS. DRIVERS STOPPED VEHICLES AT CITY HALL BUT ELSEWHERE IN CITY TRAFFIC FLOWED NORMALLY. REPORTING OFFICER VISITING BELFAST CASTLEREAGH INDUSTRIAL ESTATE AT TIME AND THERE NO DISCERNIBLE WORK STOPPAGE OR SOUNDING OF FACTORY WHISTLES. REPORTS FROM ARMAGH AND LURGAN INDICATE OBSERVANCE MORE GENERAL THOSE PLACES. GOODYEAR AT CRAIGAVON OBSERVED THE TWO MINUTE STOPPAGE.

2. ONE REASON FOR LACK SUPPORT IS ULSTER WORKERS COUNCIL (UWC) SUSPICION OF MOTIVES TRADE UNION LEADERS IN PEACE CAMPAIGN. UWC SPOKESMAN J EARLY JAN. 27 SAID CAMPAIGN UNCLASSIFIED

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LAUNCHED BY "REPUBLICANS" AND "COMMUNISTS". THIS JOINS

WITH SUSPICION THAT IRISH CONFEDERATION TRADE UNIONS
(ICTU) LEADERS ACTING AS "AGENTS BRITISH GOVERNMENT"
IN CAMPAIGN. CONFEDERATION BRITISH INDUSTRY ANNOUNCED
SUPPORT OF CAMPAIGN. IN VIEW OF FACT EMPLOYERS GENERALLY
RESPONDED TO WORKERS INITIATIVES ON WHETHER TO PARTICIPATE
IN OBSERVANCE IT APPEARS THAT IN BELFAST, AT LEAST,
PREDOMINANTLY PROTESTANT WORKFORCE IN MAJOR INDUSTRIES
WITHHELD SUPPORT.

SPICER

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